

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

1958

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare's history can be traced back to 1958 when the Alachua County Health Department established a very limited mental health operation, which began as a consultation service to public health nurses serving in the school system.

1962

In 1962, services were expanded to include pre-care and aftercare services to state mental hospital patients. A third phase began in 1966 when the Alachua County Mental Health Association, the County Commission, The Public Health Department, and the Department of Community Psychiatry at the University of Florida became involved in the development of a community mental health center.

1972

In July 1972, the Center was awarded a staffing grant and officially began serving a ten-county catchment area – Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Bradford, and Union. Bradford and Union counties were served through a contract with the Bradford-Union Guidance Clinic. Over the next four years, the Center was awarded additional grants for children's staffing, alcohol abuse, residential services for children, and services for older persons.

1979

In 1979, the Center split into two different organizations. A new federal staffing grant was obtained to create North Florida Mental Health Center (NFMHC), which served the six northern counties of Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Bradford, and Union. Bradford and Union continued to be served via contract with the Bradford-Union Guidance Clinic. MHS continued to serve Alachua, Dixie, Levy, and Gilchrist counties.

1985

Over the next seventeen years both MHS and NFMHC continued to grow and change. In 1985 the Bradford-Union Guidance Clinic expanded to cover Putnam County. In 1992 the Bradford-Union Guidance Clinic merged into and became part of NFMHC, which later began serving Baker County, also.

1996

In July, 1996 MHS and NFMHC merged to create Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., which served twelve counties: Alachua, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Baker, Bradford, Union, and Putnam.

2021

In September of 2021, Meridian turned 50 years old.

In 2022 Meridian is Celebrating 50 years of providing essential healthcare, Meridian is the largest comprehensive provider of treatment for mental illness and substance use disorder in the North Central Florida area and serves the entire State of Florida through Telehealth.

Meridian has seen hundreds of thousands of individuals in treatment and provides behavioral, mental health, and substance use disorder inpatient, residential, intensive outpatient, traditional outpatient, case management, medication-assisted treatment, crisis stabilization, addictions receiving, mobile response and community action teams, intervention, outreach, and prevention service.

Multiple source recognize Meridian as one of the top 10 largest employers in the in Gainesville Florida, where our corporate offices are located.

Meridian contributes to the economic development of the region by employing over 750 FTEs and brings over 50 million dollars in revenue to the area. Through innovation and growth, Meridian hires **contractors and vendors locally** whenever possible to operate our 23 physical addresses in the region.